

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). ~~Single or multi-layer~~ Multi-layer film having at least one layer (4 I) of polyamide with nano-scale nucleating particles dispersed therein, wherein said nano-scale nucleating particles have an aspect ratio of at least 10 in two randomly selectable directions, and, as a number-weighted average, a dimension no greater than 100 nm in at least one direction that is randomly selectable for each constituent, having crystalline structures that emanate from the surface of the particles, the amount by weight of the particles, based on the total weight of the polyamide forming the layer (4 I), is from 10 ppm to 2000 ppm, the polyamide forming the layer (4 I) contains at least 90% polyamide 6, based on the total mass of the polyamide in that layer and comprising further polyamide-containing layers (II) containing no or less than 10 ppm nano-scale nucleating agent.

Claim 2 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein layer (I) contains, in addition to polyamide 6, a polyamide selected from the group consisting of, polyamide 10, polyamide 12, polyamide 66, polyamide 610, polyamide 6I, polyamide 612, polyamide 6/66, polyamide 6I/6T, polyamide MXD6, polyamide 6/6I, polyamide 6/6T, polyamide 6/IPDI, copolymers of the monomers forming these polymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3. (cancelled).

Claim 4 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein the particles used in layer (I) are layered silicates.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein said film contains one or more EVOH-containing layers (III).

Claim 7 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein said film has an at least single-layer sealing layer (V) on one outer side of the multi-layer film.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein said film contains one or more adhesion-promoting layers (IV).

Claim 9 (previously presented). The film of any one of the preceding claims further comprising one or more further polymeric layers.

Claim 10 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein said film has only polyamide-containing layers.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented). The film of Claim 10 wherein said film has a thickness of from 13 to 30 μm .

Claim 13 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein said film has been produced in the form of a flat film.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein layer (I) forms an outer layer of the film.

Claim 15 (previously presented). The film of Claim 1 wherein at least one layer (I) is subjected, after extrusion, to a stretching operation selected from: stretching only in the longitudinal direction; stretching only in the transverse direction; stretching first in the longitudinal and then in the transverse direction; stretching in the longitudinal and transverse directions simultaneously; and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (currently amended). A method of packaging foodstuffs on a form-fill-seal machine, which comprises packaging said foodstuffs on said form-fill-seal-machine with a ~~single-or~~ multi-layer film of Claim 1.

Claim 17 (currently amended). The ~~single-or~~ multi-layer film of claim 1, wherein said at least one layer (I) is pure polyamide 6.

Claim 18 (**currently amended**). The ~~single—~~or—multi-layer film of claim 1, wherein the smallest constituents of said nano-scale nucleating particles forming rigid unit in the dispersion have a dimension in two randomly selectable directions that are perpendicular to each other of at least ten times the size of the constituents in the direction having the smallest dimension of the constituent.

Claim 19 (**currently amended**). The ~~single—~~or—multi-layer film of claim 1, wherein said particles are selected from the group consisting of phyllosilicates, montmorillonite, saponite, beidellite, nontronite, hectorite, stevensite, vermiculite, halloysite and their synthetic analogs.

Claim 20 (**currently amended**). The ~~single—~~or—multi-layer film of Claim 19, wherein said particles are phyllosilicates and said phyllosilicates are magnesium silicate or aluminum silicate.

Claim 21 (**currently amended**). The ~~single—~~or—multi-layer film of claim 1, wherein said amount of said particles is from 50 - 1000 ppm.

Claim 22 (**currently amended**). The ~~single—~~or—multi-layer film of claim 21, wherein said amount of said particles is from 100 - 500 ppm.

Claim 23 (**currently amended**). A method for producing the ~~single—~~or—multi-layer film of Claim 1, which comprises producing said film on a flat film installation and cooling

said at least one layer (I) from a fully molten state at a cooling rate of from 10° to 20°C per minute.

Claim 24 (currently amended). The ~~single—~~~~or~~ multi-layer film of claim 1, wherein said film comprises, in addition to said at least one layer (I), and said at least one further polyamide layer (II) containing no less than 10 ppm nano-scale nucleating agent, at least one or more EVOH-containing layer (III), at least one adhesion promoting layer (IV) and at least one single-layer sealing layer (V) on one outer side of the multi-layer film.

Claim 25. (previously presented) The film of Claim 24, further comprising one or more further polymeric layers.

Claim 26 (new). Multi-layer film having at least one layer (I) of polyamide with nano-scale nucleating particles dispersed therein, wherein said nano-scale nucleating particles have an aspect ratio of at least 10 in two randomly selectable directions, and, as a number-weighted average, a dimension no greater than 100 nm in at least one direction that is randomly selectable for each constituent, having crystalline structures that emanate from the surface of the particles, the amount by weight of the particles, based on the total weight of the polyamide forming the layer (I), is from 10 ppm to 2000 ppm, the polyamide forming the layer (I) contains at least 90% polyamide 6, based on the total mass of the polyamide in that layer and wherein said film has only polyamide-containing and EVOH-containing layers.